



COD Processing Update For Pell Grants

August 27, 2004

Pell Grants

COD News

COD Holiday Schedule for September 6, 2004 (8/27/04)

The COD School Relations Center will be closed on Monday, September 6, 2004 in observance of Labor Day. The COD System will accept and process data from schools and send back Acknowledgements on Monday, September 6, 2004. However, requests for changes in funding levels and for funds will not be processed until Tuesday, September 7, 2004. Further information regarding Labor Day processing and customer service hours for COD and other FSA/ED call centers is available in an Electronic Announcement on the IFAP web site at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0827LaborDayClosing.html/>.

Guidance Provided To Schools And Others Impacted By Hurricane Charley (08/27/04)

FSA has posted guidance to schools and others impacted by Hurricane Charley on the IFAP web site at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0825HurricaneCharley.html/>. The announcement is a reminder that various waivers and flexibilities are available to lessen the impact of the storm on the administration of the Title IV student assistance programs.

Third And Final Administrative Cost Allowance Payments for 2002-2003 Award Year (08/23/04)

COD began processing the third and final Administrative Cost Allowance (ACA) payments for the 2002-2003 Award on August 21, 2004. Schools will begin to see these payments deposited directly into their bank accounts over the next few weeks.

For more information about these ACA payments, refer to the electronic announcement that is posted on the IFAP web site at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0823ThirdPGACAPaymt0203.html/>.

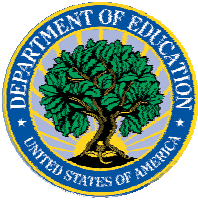
Pending Disbursements Intermittently Not Displaying On The COD Web Site (8/23/04)

Last week, schools intermittently were not able to view pending disbursements on the COD web site. We are researching the cause of this recurring issue and will provide more information as it becomes available.

We sincerely apologize to all COD web site users for the inconvenience caused by this issue. If you experience this issue in the future, contact the COD School Relations Center.

Second 2003-2004 Verification Status Code "W" Warning Message (8/20/04)

Schools that have made an interim Pell Grant disbursement to a student selected for verification should be concluding verification activities and changing a student's verification status code from "W" to either "V", "S", or "Blank", as appropriate. On August 20, 2004, COD began processing



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a message to schools that have one or more student records still reported with a verification status code of "W". The message is a warning that these disbursements will be considered overawards and reduced to a zero dollar amount (\$0.00), even if the disbursements were previously accepted in the COD System. The reduction of the affected disbursements is scheduled to occur on September 11, 2004.

COD has sent a warning message to schools' SAIG mailboxes in the message class PGTX04OP. Additionally, COD has sent a file of student records reported to COD with a verification status code of "W" in the Reconciliation Report message class PGRC04OP. Schools that receive the warning message should review the accompanying Reconciliation Report and submit appropriate changes to the verification status codes for affected students before September 11, 2004.

If you have questions, contact the COD School Relations Center.

2004-2005 COD Technical Reference August Update And 2005-2006 Draft COD Technical Reference August Release Now Available (8/20/04)

COD would like to announce that the 2004-2005 COD Technical Reference August Update is available on IFAP at

<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0819CODTechRef0405Update.html/>.

The 2005-2006 draft COD Technical Reference August Release is available on IFAP at

<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0817CODTechRefDraft0506.html/>.

If you have any questions regarding information contained in these documents, please contact the COD School Relations Center.

All Schools Must Be COD Full Participants Beginning With 2005-2006 Award Year [08/02/04 (Updated 08/09/04)]

As a reminder, **all** schools must be Full Participants beginning with the 2005-2006 Award Year. This means that **all** schools must be able to submit 2005-2006 Pell and/or Direct Loan origination and disbursement data to the COD System using the COD Common Record in XML format.

Note: FSA recently informed schools in [GEN-04-06](#) that the implementation of the Common Record: ISIR will not be implemented for the 2005-2006 Award Year. The adjustment of the Common Record: ISIR implementation schedule **does not** affect the requirement that **all** schools must be COD Full Participants beginning with the 2005-2006 Award Year.

Current Phase-In Participants can refer to the following sections of the 2004-2005 COD Technical Reference (<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/cod/0405CODTechRefDraft.html/>) for information that may be helpful in determining their Full Participant solution:

- Volume I, Section 3 provides information about XML.
- Volume II, Section 1 and Volume V, Section 1 provide information about FSA's EDExpress software that can be used to submit data to the COD System.

Updated information about Full Participant sign up for the 2005-2006 Award Year is posted on the IFAP web site at <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/0806CODFullParticReq0506.html/>.



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Reports and Data Requests



ISSUES

Except as listed below, all Pell Grant reports and data requests are available as specified in Volume VIII, Section 8 of the 2004-2005 COD Technical Reference posted on the IFAP web site at www.IFAP.ed.gov/. There are issues with the following Pell Grant reports and/or data requests:

- Pell POP Report—
For 2004-2005, is not available on the COD web site. COD is evaluating the functionality to push the report to schools' COD newsboxes. Report is being pushed to schools' SAIG mailboxes (Message Class PGPR05OP).
- Verification Status Report—
For 2004-2005, is not being pushed to schools' SAIG mailboxes and is not available on the COD web site. COD is evaluating all functionality.



NOW AVAILABLE

The following previously unavailable Pell Grant reports and/or data requests are now available:

- Pending Disbursement List—
For 2002-2003 and forward, is available on the COD web site and via SAIG (Message Class PGPDXXOP).

Current Issues

Rejected Records Not Viewable On The COD Web Site [07/30/04 (Updated 08/26/04)]

Some schools are receiving an error message when attempting to view rejected records on the COD web site's Batch Detail Information screen. Clicking on the Rejected link in the Award No. column causes the following error message to display: "An unexpected error has occurred. Please contact your administrator if the problem persists."

On August 10, 2004, COD partially corrected this problem by migrating a code fix to correct the affected Phase-In records. Next, the code fix will be migrated to correct the affected Common Records. COD will provide more information about the code fix for Common Records as soon as it becomes available.

Disbursements Not Displaying On COD Web Site [12/11/03 (Updated 08/17/04)]

COD has identified an issue where disbursements/adjustments are being processed in COD, but are not appearing on the Disbursement List screen. However, the accepted disbursements are appearing on the Batch screen and being acknowledged correctly to schools. Also in some cases, sequence numbers for the disbursements are not appearing on the Disbursement History Information screen.



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Several code fixes have been migrated to prevent this problem going forward. COD is now determining the cleanup plan for the affected records and will provide updates as more information becomes available.

In the meantime, please be patient and do not resubmit the disbursements/adjustments for processing; these transactions have already been acknowledged back to schools.

COD Edit 116 Not Working Correctly [01/06/04 (Updated 08/16/04)]

COD previously reported that COD Edit 116 (SSN, Date of Birth and/or Last Name have not been updated in the COD System) was not working properly. This edit is a warning that is returned when changes to the Student Identifier information are submitted and the reported CPS Transaction Number and Award Year combination is not greater than the combination that currently exists in COD.

Because this edit was not working correctly schools were unable to submit new 2003-2004 originations or make online changes when previous award year information was different for a student in COD. On August 10, 2004, COD implemented a code fix to prevent this issue going forward. COD is now determining the cleanup plan. In the meantime, please be patient and do not resubmit your records that previously rejected for COD Edit 116. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Note: If your records were previously rejected for COD Edit 116 incorrectly and you have not already notified COD of your concern, contact the COD School Relations Center to report your affected records.

Duplicate Disbursement Information In COD [05/06/04 (Updated 07/30/04)]

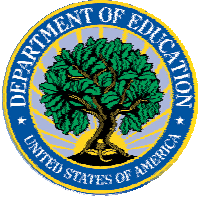
COD has learned that duplicate disbursement numbers are displaying incorrectly on the COD web site's Award Disbursements Information screen. On this screen under the Disbursement Number column, disbursement numbers are appearing twice. However, when viewing the Disbursement Information screen, each disbursement displays a different status (Pending or Disbursed).

COD has made significant progress in analyzing the issue and anticipates a resolution in September 2004. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Student Name And Date Of Birth Not Updated In COD [05/03/04 (Updated 06/30/04)]

COD notified schools of an issue where new 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 origination records are accepted in COD; however, the student's Name and Date of Birth (DOB) updates submitted by the school are not displaying on the COD web site's Person Information screen. The COD web site is reflecting the Name and DOB from the previous award year. Additionally, in some cases, changes to Name and DOB for previously accepted origination records are not displaying on the Person Information screen as well.

COD continues to research the cause of this issue and appreciates your patience. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.



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Mixed Person Records In COD [03/02/04 (Updated 05/20/04)]

As you are aware, the COD System is based on the establishment of a person record and contains person records established as early as 1999-2000. COD has discovered that primarily due to inaccurate SSNs that have entered the COD System, approximately 300 records (out of approximately 14 million person records in the COD System) have mixed with other COD records. Since PLUS borrowers are not matched with CPS, the majority of the people affected by this issue are PLUS borrowers. COD has a dedicated team working to resolve the small number of records that have been mixed. COD would like to assure you that if your data has been affected by this rare problem it is not lost in the COD System and it will be corrected.

Specifically, COD has identified two scenarios related to this issue. In the first scenario, one person appears twice within the COD System, with different awards under each profile. In the second scenario, two persons have the same SSN in the COD System with mixed profiles and awards. These problems usually occur when incorrect SSNs are submitted to COD and are compounded when the incorrect SSN matches another person's correct SSN.

COD continues to work on further detailed instructions that will assist you in avoiding these scenarios and, if necessary, in correcting them. If you have any questions, please contact the COD School Relations Center.